

The Nexus No Name Newsletter

Number Forty Three

April 2014

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.
Albert Einstien

HORSE RIDING

by

Lisa Thompson

I have been horse riding at Sam's stables for about 3 years. I like all the horses but I like Spot best of all but I like Dolly, Molly and Sid, there is another horse called Blaze who I also like a lot. My riding teacher is Sam she has also taught me how to groom the horse and tack them up before my lesson and sometimes she lets me take the horses out to the field after my lesson. I like Sam a lot and I have made lots of new friends at her stables. There are lots of other animals at the stables including dogs, chickens and cats.



APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Although the day is not a national holiday but it is celebrated with much enthusiasm everywhere. It is one of the most light-hearted days of the year where you get to pull pranks over your loved ones as well as your enemies yet everyone takes it in a light spirit of humorous way. Even though it is widely celebrated its origin is uncertain. While unleashing your fun side and fooling others let's look at some of the fun facts related to it.

The earliest records of anything to do with April Fools day dates back to the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer.

On April Fools Day in 2009 the travel site Expedia offered exclusive flight tickets to mars.

A recent survey 32% of workers said that they had initiated or have been at the receiving end of a Fool's Day prank.

In certain areas of Belgium the children show their stubborn side by locking out their parents and teachers only to let them when they agree to give them sweets in return.

In the late 80's Tomorrows World television programme ran an April Fools hoax about a device called "chippy" claiming it was a technological device which could hold hundreds of songs on a small microchip now we have MP3 players . . .

On April 1st 1945 a powerful tsunami killed lots of unsuspecting people because the whole population of the Pacific island ignored the weather warning because they thought it was an April Fool joke.

Dutch television broadcast a news item about the collapse of the leaning Tower of Pisa and the station was besieged by a hoard of mourning people

The Iranians have their own version of April's Fool day called Sizdah Be-dar

On April 1st 1980 the BBC reported that the clock faces of the iconic Big Ben were to go Digital and received hundred of protests.

THE NEWSLETTER

Now that we have opened the Nexus Hub it is more difficult for me to visit each unit collecting information and photos for the Newsletter.

To help me to keep the newsletter going it would be helpful if everyone could think about what has been happening in their unit and lets us know at The Hub by the third week in every month, its always nice to get photos to include.

Copies of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Nexus Programme Ltd website. Peter H



2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War we thought it would be interesting to look at the daily life of the average British and German soldier starting with their daily rations.



The theoretical daily rations for a British soldier were:

- 20 ounces of bread
- 16 ounces of flour instead of above
- 3 ounces of cheese
- 5/8 ounces of tea
- 4 ounces of jam
- 1/2 ounce of salt
- 1/36 ounce of pepper
- 1/20 ounce of mustard
- 8 ounces of fresh vegetables or
- 1/10 gill lime if vegetables not issued
- 1/2 gill of rum
- maximum of 20 ounces of tobacco
- 1/3 chocolate – optional
- 4 ounces of oatmeal instead of bread
- 1 pint of porter instead of rum
- 4 ounces of dried fruit instead of jam
- 4 ounces of butter/margarine
- 2 ounces of dried vegetables



The theoretical daily rations for a German soldier were:

- 26 1/2 ounces of bread or
- 17 1/2 of field biscuits or
- 14 ounces of egg biscuit
- 53 ounces of potatoes
- 4 1/2 ounces vegetables

The Tank



The evolution of the tanks in World War 1 was quite remarkable, especially when you consider that they'd never been used in warfare before. These armoured machines changed warfare forever. In World War 1 tanks first appeared at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916. It was the first time tanks had ever been used in a military conflict. The British sent 49 tanks into the battle. WW1 tanks were very slow and couldn't exceed 4 miles an hour. Tanks in WW1 played an extremely important role as they increased mobility on the Western Front and eventually broke the stalemate of trench warfare.

The very first tanks were made in a heavy engineering works in Lincoln but the government realised that they couldn't make enough there and they looked for engineering works that had the capability of making tanks and realised that the railway works at Ashford had been making railway engines and could easily start making the tanks. Some of the first tanks sent over to France were made in Ashford. So that the Germans didn't know what they were the British army said that they were mobile water tanks used to carry water over the battlefield and the name stuck and they have been known as tanks ever since. One of the original tanks was fully restored and is on display in the centre of Ashford.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 3

By David Warde

My team Folkestone Invicta DFC played in Championship 3 on Sunday 13th April at Maidstone's Gallagher Stadium.

We played four games the first against Equal's Team C which we lost 3-0.

Our second game was against Swale Spiders which unfortunately once again we lost, this time 3-1.

The third game was against Maidstone Steel and we lost 3-0, but our fourth game against Maidstone Copper we won 3-0.

It was a pity that we lost so many of our games but we did win the last one and I had a really good time.

TWENTY FACTS ABOUT WWI



1. Officially a British soldier had to be 19 years old to serve overseas but many lied about their age. About 250,000 under-age boys served. The youngest was discovered to be just 12.

2. Average life expectancy in the trenches was about six weeks. Junior officers and stretcher bearers were some of the people most at risk.

3. During four years 25 million tons of supplies were shipped to the British forces on the Western Front including three million tons of food and five million tons of oats and hay for the horses.



4. As the war went on the amount of food given to soldiers was reduced. A common meal in the trenches was maconochie - a stew of turnips, potatoes and carrots. Other rations included bully beef and even Marmite. There was a small rum ration but tea tasted horrible thanks to the chloride of lime used to purify the water.

5. The war claimed the lives of at least 6,000 men a day. More than nine million soldiers died during the fighting.

6. An incredible 65 million men from 30 countries fought.

7. Some 25,000 miles of zig-zagging trenches were dug on the Western Front alone. Many had nicknames like Bond Street or Death Valley. German lines were given names like Pilsen Trench.

8. German trenches were far superior to Allied ones. Built to last some had shuttered windows and even doorbells. At Hooge, near Ypres, opposing trenches were 50 yards apart.

9. A soldier spent 15 per cent of the year on the frontline, usually for no more than two weeks at a time.

10. At the Battle of Mons in 1914, the British infantry fired their Lee-Enfield rifles so efficiently that the Germans thought they were facing machine guns.

11. At Christmas 1914 an unofficial truce was observed along two-thirds of the Western Front. Near Ypres, Belgium, some German and British troops played a football match in No Man's Land. Germany won 3--2 (but not on penalties).

12. Sixty per cent of casualties on the Western Front came from shellfire. There were also 80,000 recorded cases of shell shock.

13. In 1917 anti-German sentiment forced George V to change the Royal Family's name from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to Windsor. Many road names in Britain were changed too.

14. Famous people who served include the writers AA Milne, creator of Winnie The Pooh, Lord Of The Rings author JRR Tolkien, sculptor Henry Moore and the actor Basil Rathbone

15. None of the soldiers had metal helmets in 1914. The French were the first to introduce them, in 1915. Future prime minister Winston Churchill wore a French one during his time on the front in 1916.



16. Air raids on Britain, carried out by Zeppelins and aircraft, along with the naval shelling of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby, killed more than 700 people.

17. Disease accounted for a third of deaths during the war. Duck boards eventually helped ease cases of trench foot, an infection caused by damp and cold. But with semi-sanctioned brothels being set up behind the frontline a massive 150,000 British soldiers came down with venereal infections

18. A total of 346 British soldiers were shot by their own side, mostly for desertion. Another sanction, called Field Punishment No 1, saw offenders strapped to a gun wheel or post, sometimes within range of enemy fire.

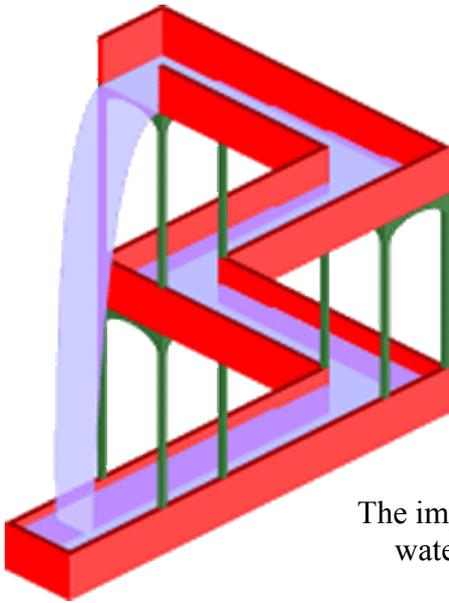
19. As well as taking up thousands of male jobs at home some 9,000 women served in France as part of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps working in such roles as cooks and drivers.

20. There were 16,000 British conscientious objectors who refused to fight. Many received white feathers as a sign

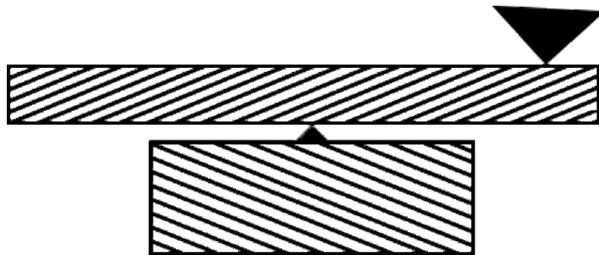


DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME?

We haven't looked at any puzzles for a while so here are some to tease your eyes



The impossible water fall



Is the beam level?



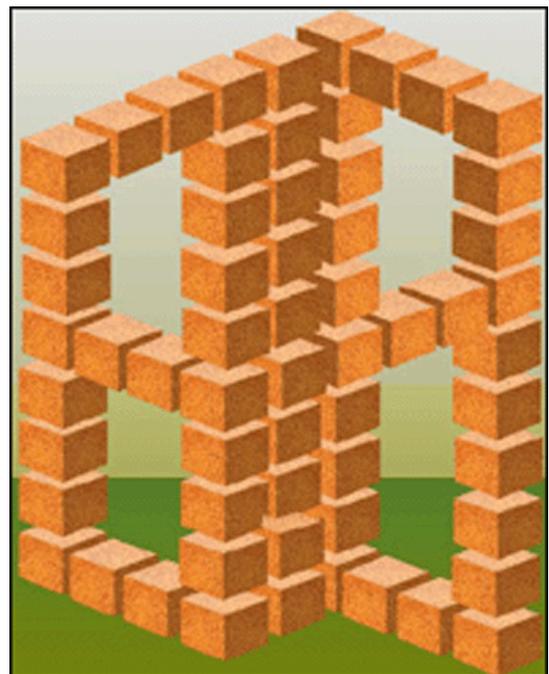
Young Girl or Old Man?



Are these lines the same length?



Can you see the doves that make up this young lady's face?



The impossible wall